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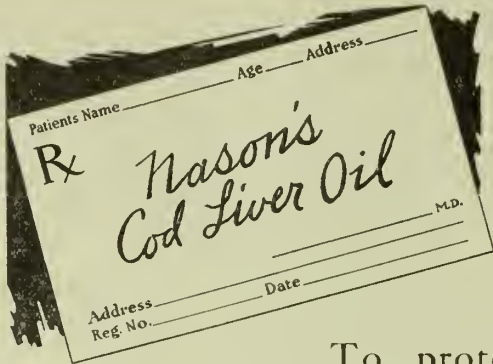
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HARVARD MEDICAL ALUMNI BULLETIN

THE PROFESSORSHIP
OF THE
THEORY AND PRACTICE
OF PHYSIC



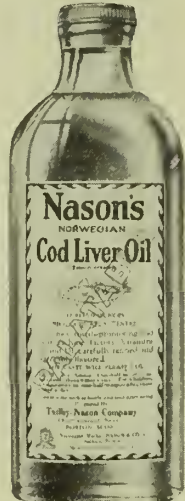
January, 1933



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SESQUICENTENARY

OF THE

PROFESSORSHIP OF THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC

(December 24, 1782 — December 24, 1932)

Benjamin Waterhouse (1782-1812), James Jackson (1812-1836), John Ware (1836-1858), George C. Shattuck (1859-1874), Francis Minot (1874-1891), Reginald H. Fitz (1892-1908), Henry A. Christian (1908-

Anniversary Meeting in Building D, Harvard Medical School

at 8.15 P. M., December 20, 1932

1. Benjamin Waterhouse and the Introduction of Vaccination into America. By his great-great-granddaughter, Margaret Thayer Lancaster.
2. James Jackson as Professor of Medicine. By his great-grandson, George R. Minot, A.B., M.D., S.D., F.R.C.P. (Hon.) Edin., Professor of Medicine.
3. John Ware, the Family Physician. By his grandson, Robert M. Green, A.B., M.D., Assistant Professor of Applied Anatomy.
4. George Cheyne Shattuck and his Medical Contributions. By his grandson, George Cheever Shattuck, A.M., M.D., Assistant Professor of Tropical Medicine.
5. Francis Minot and Hemorrhage in the Newborn. By his grandson, Francis Minot Rackemann, A.B., M.D., Instructor in Medicine.
6. Reginald Heber Fitz and Appendicitis. By his son, Reginald Fitz, A.B., M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine.

HENRY A. CHRISTIAN, A.M., M.D., LL.D., S.D.

Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic

Presiding



Henry A. Christian.

Introduction

By Henry A. Christian, M.D.

ON December 24, 1782, Benjamin Waterhouse was elected Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in the following vote of the President and Fellows of Harvard College: "Written vote being brought for Professor of Theory and Practice of Physic, it appeared that Benjamin Waterhouse, M.D., was chosen."

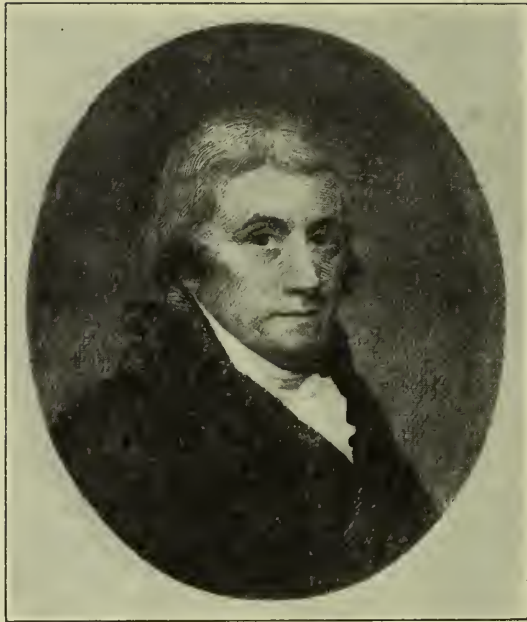
Since that date a century and a half have passed, but this professorship has continued without any change in name except the addition in 1791 of the name "Hersey" to honor the family of the donor of a modest endowment. No other professorship in the Harvard Medical School has thus survived without change in basic name, for of the original three the other two, the professorship of Anatomy and Surgery and that of Chemistry, no longer appear under these names on the roster of the Harvard Medical School. Without any intermission, too, the chair of the theory and practice of physic has continued to be occupied since its founding in 1782.

A century and a half is a long period of time, but during these many years but seven have served the University in this capacity. In imagination one can picture the chair of the theory and practice of physic as a commodious, high-backed, well-padded arm chair to which in the evenings after a busy day the professor repairs for contemplation and rest. This fictitious chair must have been a comfortable one for each professor has occupied it for long periods, the shortest occupancy having been 15 years, while the first professor occupied it for 30 years. That it is a pleasant seat I can bear testimony, for by next June I shall have occupied it myself for a quarter of a century. Traditions are valuable and this long occupancy may be traced to the influ-

ence of the fact that the first three professors in the Medical School occupied their chairs for an aggregate of 96 years.

We of the University think of the Corporation as a body whose votes become mandates followed without question, unless rescinded. However, there is one vote of the Corporation, which, so far as there is any record that I can find, was neither followed nor rescinded. That vote concerned the professorship of the theory and practice of physic. On September 27, 1791, the Corporation voted "Whereas the late Dr. Ezekiel Hersey bequeathed to this University the sum of one thousand pounds, the interest thereof to be appropriated towards the support of a Professor of Anatomy and Physic, which sum has for four years been accumulating interest: and whereas his relict, the late Mrs. Sarah Derby has bequeathed the sum of one thousand pounds, and ordered the income to be applied to the same purpose, and it appearing to this Board that the design of those worthy Benefactors can be better answered by placing two Professors upon those funds and dividing those branches between them, than by having them united in one; and as at the same time that their designs would be better carried into execution, more honor would be reflected upon those benevolent and generous Founders,

"Voted that the income of these legacies be equally divided between the Professor of Anatomy and Surgery and the Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and that the former be in future stiled Herseian Professor of Anatomy and Surgery and the latter Herseian Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and that the salaries from these funds commence from January 1, 1792"; and May 1, 1792, the Overseers voted "that the in-



Dr. Hainhouse.

come of these legacies be equally divided between the Professor of Anatomy and Surgery and the Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and that the former be stiled Herseian Professor of Anatomy and Surgery and the latter Herseian Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and that the salaries from these funds commence from January 1, 1792." So far as I can discover this name was never used in reference to a professor of the theory and practice of physic. Why, I know not, for it is a most intriguing word, Herseian. Benjamin Waterhouse, the first to bear the title appears not to have used it in connection with his publications. There are no extant circulars or catalogues of the Medical School of that early date to show the title of the professors. The Quinquennial Catalogue of Harvard University does not mention the title "Herseian." In the original minutes of the Corporation meeting of 1791 some one in different ink has written on the margin of this vote as follows: "The income of Dr.

Ezekiel Hersey's and Mrs. Sarah Derby's Funds to be equally divided between the Professor of Anatomy and the Professor of Physic. Their stile to be Hersey Professors."

What happened, when and why, in regard to this title is a question for some future medical historian to settle. Since, as the span of time lengthens, settlement of historical data seems to become easier, may I suggest that, when the tercentenary of the Professorship of the Theory and Practice of Physic is celebrated in 2082, a solution of this doubtful point be offered as one of the papers of the evening.

We have gathered here this evening to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the Professorship of the Theory and Practice of Physic. How more appropriate than on this occasion to hear something of the six men, who in the past have honored this chair, and how more delightful than to listen to lineal descendants of each of these past Hersey Professors of the Theory and Practice of Physic.

Benjamin Waterhouse, 1782-1812

By Margaret Thayer Lancaster.

THE first professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in the Harvard Medical School was Benjamin Waterhouse. He had studied under Fothergill in London, later at Edinburgh and still later at Leyden where he received his degree in 1781; yet he was only 28 years of age when he began his professional career at Harvard.

At this post he remained for more than thirty years. During this time he introduced into America vaccination against small-pox.

In 1798 Edward Jenner had published his "Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ or Cow Pox." The following year Waterhouse received a copy of this from his friend Lettsom and

later in that same year he discussed vaccination before the American Academy of Arts and Sciences of which John Adams was then president.

After several futile attempts, Waterhouse obtained vaccine virus in June, 1800. On July 8, 1800, he vaccinated his oldest son, aged 5, and subsequently his four other children and three domestic servants. Six of these were later inoculated with small-pox by Dr. Aspinwall at his hospital in Brookline, with no signs of infection.

On May 21, 1802, Waterhouse presented a memorial to the Boston Board of Health. This formed part of a treatise which he wrote in that year entitled "A Prospect of Exterminating the Small-Pox"

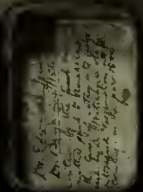
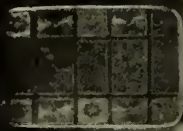
William Roscoe Thayer

April 9, 1893

Dear Mrs. Roscoe
I have just received your letter
of the 7th and am glad to hear
that you are well and hope
that you will continue to be
so for many years to come.

The paper on which you
wrote is very fine. I have
the diary of the voyage and will
be glad to see it. I have
just finished the diary of the
voyage from 1891 to 1892 and
as it is very long I began to
write it in a small notebook
and as it is very long I began to
write it in a small notebook
and as it is very long I began to
write it in a small notebook

ST. LOUIS, MO.
MAY 10, 1893



Gifts Presented by Mrs. William Roscoe Thayer.

and which he published in 1810 under the title "Information Respecting the Origin, Progress, and Efficiency of the Kine-Pock Inoculation in Effectually and Forever Securing a Person from Small-Pox." A few extracts from this memorial will give an idea of what Waterhouse did.

Gentlemen,

"No one can doubt the propriety of my addressing you on the subject of the new inoculation, who considers that you are placed by law as so many guardians of our lives, health, and safety.

"Being made acquainted, at a very early period, with this extraordinary discovery, I felt it my duty, as a teacher of medicine, to collect all the facts for the information of those who attended my public lectures. Having imported the disease itself into America, I feel, if possible, a still stronger obligation to acquaint the public with every step I took in diffusing it, even before it passed the limits of my own family.

* * *

"Assuming it then, as a fact (and the learned of all nations have admitted it), that Dr. Jenner has demonstrated a new law of nature, respecting the prophylactic, or preventive power of the kine-pock in the human system; we presume that every one, who dreads the small-pox, would gladly shelter himself behind the Egis of Jenner, from its too fatal effects, had he but a cloudless view of the whole business; and the ultimate object of this address, gentlemen, is a plan to help your fellow citizens to such a view of it; and thus to relieve them from their present state of doubt and uncertainty, respecting a matter of more importance to your commercial town, than any that ever exercised its deliberations, since our venerable forefathers first landed on your renowned peninsula.

"In the present unsettled state of this practice, the inhabitants of Boston know not what to adopt, or what to reject. Although I hold up to you, with confidence, a sure, safe, and effectual method of forever securing your offspring from the worst of maladies, yet I wish not that you should patronize, much less adopt it, without *A Public Experiment Performed Under Your Own Inspection*.

* * *

"A public experiment by some learned body, or association of physicians, or some regularly constituted body, as the board of health, is requisite to infuse confidence into the minds of the people. For an individual, however warmly disposed to promote the good of his fellow

creatures, can do but little in such a peculiar business. This induced me to address the Boston Board of Health—to request them to take this new mode of preventing the small-pox infection into their serious consideration, as a matter of great importance to the community, and coming with peculiar propriety under their cognizance.

"The writer of this has, for more than three years, devoted his undivided attention to maturing, and bringing forward this mode of exterminating a horrid disease. He has, by suggesting, but not obtruding on the public, held up to their view *A Mild and Easy Substitute*. In the same spirit he would now propose to the Board of Health, as a principal means of effecting this end, that they would take some step towards forming a committee, to inquire, 1st, whether there be sufficient evidence of the efficacy of the kine-pock to justify the expense of a public experiment; and ample documents are here transmitted to assist you in this inquiry. If this is found to be the case, to establish, 2dly, a committee of physicians to conduct the experiment. To ensure universal satisfaction, it is suggested, that the committee should consist of six of the oldest physicians of Boston; men, who from their age and character are rather retiring from extensive business than candidates for it; and that to these should be invited the physician of the small-pox hospital at Brookline. I would further ask leave to propose, that to these medical characters should be associated as many clergymen, whose information, habits of inquiry, and benevolent views, would complete a committee, every way adequate to the important task of forming and laying, in conjunction with the board of health, before the public, a correct and unbiased report of facts.

* * *

"Let us then no longer be told of the contemptible origin of that benign remedy, which Providence has destined for the preservation of our offspring from a loathsome and destructive plague. The earth maintains not a more clean, placid, healthy, and useful animal than the Cow. She is peculiarly the poor man's riches and support. From her is drawn, night and morning, the food for his ruddy children; while the more concentrated part of her healthy juices is sold to the rich, in the form of cream, butter, and cheese. It would indeed be uncomfortable to live without this animal, as she supplies man with more conveniences, and at a less expense, than any other quadruped in the creation. When we have exhausted her by age, her flesh serves for our nourishment, while every part of her has its particular uses in commerce and medicine. On these accounts she is a useful, though invisible wheel in the great machine of state.

Hence we cease to wonder that this useful domestic animal was consecrated among ancient nations as an object of worship.

"You will readily see, gentlemen, that this memorial, though meant to carry every mark of respect, is not made in the style of cringing solicitation, like a man exclusively interested in the event, and actuated by personal motives merely; but of a man conscious of his duty, and zealous in promoting a public benefit every way worthy of your patronage; a benefit of more real value to the town of Boston, than all the riches contained within its limits. You will also remember, that the main object of this address is not to persuade you blindly to patronize the new inoculation, but to induce you to cause a rigid inquiry to be made into the truth of my assertions, and to have them subjected to the test of a *Public Experiment* by a set of men whose knowledge, age, and virtues, will create confidence, and inspire satisfaction."

BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

Cambridge, May 31, 1802.

Waterhouse in his own words tells what followed.

"The Board of Health paid a prompt attention to this address, adopted and pursued the plan here suggested in every particular, excepting that which related to the physician of the small-pox hospital in Brookline; and that which regarded the gentlemen of the clergy. I grieved in silence that they mutilated any part of my plan, yet would not utter a word, lest it should impede their meritorious exertions. Partial to my original idea, I must nevertheless be allowed to remark, that if to the six oldest physicians of Boston, had been added the six oldest divines, they would have formed a weighty and dignified jury, whose verdict would everywhere, and forever have silenced the insinuations of the ignorant and mischievous, respecting interested and professional motives. In 1721 six clergymen of Boston did more in strengthening the hands of Dr. Boylston, than any six hundred people that could have been selected in the province. For these reasons I have never ceased to regret that that part of my design was not likewise adopted.

* * *

"The Board of Health however pursued the main object with unremitting attention and suc-

cess. On the 16th of August, 1802, nineteen children were inoculated for the kine-pock at the Health Office in Boston; and went through the disease to the entire satisfaction of the physicians and of the board.

"On the 9th of November following, these nineteen children, with another who had the kine-pock two years before, were sent to Noddle's Island, which is about a mile from the long wharf of Boston, and there inoculated with variolous matter. Two children were at the same time inoculated with the small-pox, with a view to compare the progress of the local affection in each, and also to afford a stock of fresh matter for a re-inoculation; and to obtain moreover a perfect variolated atmosphere, so that the affection might be applied to the lungs, as well as to the wound in the skin.

* * *

"This decisive experiment, which has fixed forever the practice of the new inoculation in Massachusetts, was instituted three years and eight months after my first publication of the existence of such an epizootic distemper, as the cow-pox; and about two years and four months after I made the first experiment with it in America, on my own children."

A GIFT TO THE SCHOOL

Upon the completion of Mrs. Lancaster's address, Mrs. William Roscoe Thayer, great-granddaughter of Benjamin Waterhouse, presented to the Harvard Medical School a small silver box containing two lancets, and a silver snuff box, in a leather case, which were given to Benjamin Waterhouse by Edward Jenner. The snuff box is inscribed *Edw. Jenner to Bn. Waterhouse*, and contained originally the vaccine matter sent to America by Edward Jenner. Mrs. Thayer also presented the School with a personal notebook kept by Dr. Waterhouse, to which he referred as his "Place Book."

Dean Edsall graciously accepted these gifts in behalf of the Harvard Medical School and they are now on exhibition in the Library.

James Jackson, 1812-1836

By George R. Minot, M.D.

THE turning point in clinical medicine from idealism, speculation and theory to accurate and close observation came with the Hunters and Herberden, coincident with the American Revolution, so that when James Jackson received the degree of Bachelor of Physic (B.M.) from Harvard University in 1802 the times were ripe for the development of modern medicine.

Dr. Jackson's medical education commenced in his senior year in Harvard College when he attended lectures given by the medical professors. There followed two years of pupilage with Dr. Holyoke of Salem, a remarkably able practitioner, and during this time Jackson took the regular course of medical school lectures. He went to London in October, 1799, and returned a year later. There he studied with Astley Cooper, Woodville, of fame in connection with small-pox vaccination, and other influential men. In London he renewed and strengthened his friendship with John Collins Warren who, in 1815, succeeded his father, John Warren, the founder of the Harvard Medical School, as Professor of Anatomy and Surgery. These two young men remained intimate friends through life, and their names are united with the development of many progressive accomplishments. During his earlier years of practice Jackson served as physician to the Boston Dispensary and grew in prominence, partly because of prestige from utilizing the new vaccine virus.

Seven years after graduation as Bachelor of Physic Jackson received the degree of Doctor of Physic (M.D.), which in those days could not be obtained sooner.

Both Jackson and J. C. Warren on their return from Europe saw the need of

clinical teaching as a sound basis for practice. John Warren had thought much about medical education and he, together with his son and Jackson, was continually considering and discussing the subject. Jackson's most distinct contribution to the teaching of medicine at Harvard was that he succeeded in making the authorities recognize that a hospital used for teaching was essential to a medical school, and that one used for this purpose afforded the best treatment of patients. This idea was expressed in a circular letter in 1810, which Jackson and J. C. Warren signed and sent to leading citizens making "an eloquent appeal" for the establishment of what became the Massachusetts General Hospital. The conception of this hospital was due probably in part to the thoughts expressed by John Warren to his son and Jackson.

Waterhouse was satisfied with the *status quo* in Cambridge and did not want to teach in Boston so that the clinical department "was languishing for lack of modern methods and young blood." The Corporation of Harvard College, however, obtained permission in 1809 for students to be taught at the Boston Almshouse. Clinical instruction was conducted chiefly there until the opening of the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1821.

In 1810 there was established a new professorship of clinical medicine with the duties to be performed in connection with a hospital. Jackson was elected promptly to this chair. In 1812 Waterhouse resigned from the Professorship of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Jackson, at the age of 35 years, was elected to this position, holding the chair until 1836, then becoming *emeritus* until death in 1867. The chair of clinical medicine created for Jackson was not filled until many years later and Jackson taught unaided for 20 years, or until 1832 when

This address is an abridgement of a longer communication to be published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

John Ware was appointed to assist him.

In spite of opposition, the Medical Institution of Harvard University, as the school was then called, moved to Boston in 1810 and had temporary quarters at 49 Marlborough Street (about where 400 Washington Street is today). It was there that Jackson in 1810 gave his first medical school lectures. In 1815 the building on Mason Street was opened and in recognition of the grant from the state legislature, which had been obtained chiefly by Jackson's efforts, the new building was named the Massachusetts Medical College.

Jackson's accomplishments as a professor of Medicine are synopsisized in part in a vote of the Harvard Faculty. The record reads "That the faculty recognize with gratitude the labours of Dr. Jackson in removing the medical school to Boston, in obtaining a building for its accommodation, in his lectures in Theory and Practice and on clinical medicine and in effecting the establishment of the Massachusetts General Hospital and connecting it with the Medical School . . ."

In addition, as professor he saw the importance of the diffusion of knowledge and the prevention of disease. Both John C. Warren and Jackson were largely responsible for the inception of the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery*. Jackson's scientific clinical observations and treatment of patients based on physiological principles and experience further indicate his character as a professor of medicine. His publications testify to shrewd observation and methodical study and "his case records at the hospital stand as models of their kind." Throughout life he stressed the importance of diet and regimen and he was a master at taking care of the patient.

Jackson's character has been sketched numerous times. Oliver Wendell Holmes in an unpublished biographical sketch of Jackson has written: "He meant if any human name ever did, truthfulness, sincerity, kindness, sympathy, skill and judgment" . . . "He was beloved as a young

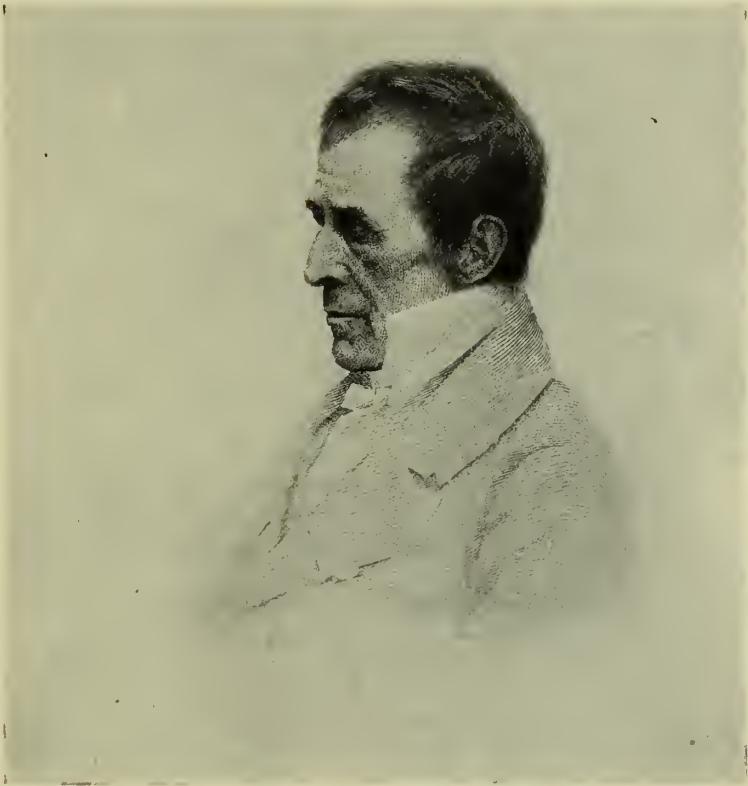
man and revered as an old one." Holmes continues, "The secret of his success lay in a combination of many conditions of which the one I would name first was that he truly loved his profession." E. H. Clarke considered that "to a large extent the medical profession of New England was moulded by his teachings and example."

Each year, as professor, until 1832, when Ware began to assist him, he delivered lectures every weekday for three months until 1831 when the course was extended to four months. At the Massachusetts General Hospital he conducted a daily medical visit for two hours which students attended. Holmes considered "to visit with Dr. Jackson was itself a medical education." Jackson also gave in Cambridge a course of lectures on physiology and hygiene for undergraduates.

The Medical School in these early days was largely a private venture of the professors. The teachers also gave courses independently of the regular ones of the school so that the students could obtain a proper amount of knowledge, and Jackson was no exception to this rule.

In order to assist his students he prepared, as he wrote, "with a good deal of labour . . . an imperfect syllabus of my winter course of lectures." This was published in 1816. He sometimes gave a lecture on medical books, and some of his remarks about them are worthy of attention today, for example: "Percival's medical ethics should be carefully read";—"Periodical works are to be read with regularity."

"For the use of the medical students in Harvard University" he published in 1825-1827 a "Textbook of a Course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Physic." This was done because he felt a textbook to be more expedient than a syllabus, and he notes, "a textbook permits him to shorten his course of lectures and devote more time to bedside teaching." These thoughts have a modern flavor. Jackson's book appears to be the first American textbook of medicine built on a solid physiological foundation.



J. Furber.

Illustrated from Viets' "Brief History of Medicine in Massachusetts."
[Courtesy Houghton Mifflin Co.]

Jackson was considered a conspicuous and popular teacher but not a brilliant one. He taught the practical as well as the scientific side of medicine. "His patient was the man and not the disease." He inspired others and held the confidence of his pupils, a number of whom became prominent, such as Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jacob Bigelow and Henry Ingersoll Bowditch. In a letter to Bowditch in 1833, Jackson writes, "my ears are old and were not trained early . . . Holmes has attended to auscultation more than any other of my (recent) pupils and I often call on him to help me with my ears." This and other remarks indicate the difficulty he had with the then new stethoscope. In this unpublished letter he comments on a case with a very thick adherent pericardium. His interest in pericarditis is also reflected in lecture notes of this date. One wonders if Jackson stimulated Holmes to consider the condition because an unpublished manuscript by Holmes, written apparently as a requirement for his degree of M.D., is entitled "A Dissertation on Acute Pericarditis."

Jackson wrote as he taught, saying the most useful things in the simplest way. His style was familiar but never became undignified. His best known publications written long after he resigned his professorship, such as "Letters to a Young Physician" (1855), are full of practical guidance for the student today and reflect Jackson's own personality and ways of teaching. His publications illustrate his ability for exact observation and his recognition of the importance of not forming opinions from general impressions. His scientific approach to the study of clinical problems by use of the statistical method is brought out in a report on 303 cases of typhoid fever.

Jackson's later publications illustrate well his sympathetic insight into human nature which is reflected in the therapeutic procedures he used throughout life. In letters he often wrote, as he did to Bowditch, such remarks as, "The physicians of

this country give too much medicine. If better acquainted with the natural history of disease they would give less." Jackson recognized the frequency and importance of functional disorders and that they were to be corrected by rest, exercise, diet and the unravelling and rearrangement of social and personal affairs.

Jackson never attained the therapeutic nihilism of Jacob Bigelow and used, as was the custom of the times, therapeutic procedures in ways that would appall us today. He prescribed cod liver oil with whiskey, but since these two ingredients do not remain well mixed he commonly found the whiskey gone and the cod liver oil in the bottom of the glass!

The self limited nature of disease Jackson recognized early in his career. He was delighted with Bigelow's and Holmes' publications pertaining to this subject. When they were his pupils Jackson may indeed have laid in their minds the foundations for these important communications.

Jackson's publications are relatively numerous and not all appear in published lists of his papers. Among them, there is a classic description of a disease—alcoholic neuritis—for no one had heretofore described this condition. This paper, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, in 1822, is entitled "On a Peculiar Disease Resulting from the Use of Ardent Spirits." The main features of this affection are correctly noted; and under treatment one may read, "animal food is most useful," which is interesting in relation to observations on diet in this disease now being conducted at the Boston City Hospital.

The paper "On Rheumatism in the Heart, Eyes & C" published in 1816 records the pronounced irregularity of the heart that may occur during rheumatic fever, a point not recorded by Wells in his original account written six years earlier.

In 1831 Jackson discussed the effects on health of animal decomposition. He decided that graveyards in the centre of cities

were wise because these open spaces gave to the inhabitants air and sun.

Probably the greatest crisis of Jackson's life came in 1834 with the death of his favorite son, James Jackson, Jr., at the age of 25 years. This young man had shown himself to be an able physician and his short career was rich in results as is impartially depicted by his father in a memoir

first published in 1835. There are at least 72 of James Jackson's descendants alive today, of four different generations. These descendants and the University may well be proud of the second Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, who aided materially in the development of practical and scientific medicine in this community.

John Ware, 1836-1858

By Robert M. Green, M.D.

ACCORDING to family record, John Ware was born in 1796 at the home of his parents on the corner of what are now North Street and Fearing Road, in the town of Hingham, Massachusetts,—descended on both sides of folk, who, in 1630, had migrated from old Hingham in Lincolnshire to the new world. It is difficult for me to realize that my grandfather began his life while Washington was President of the United States, and George the Third still sat on the throne of England. John's father was the Rev. Henry Ware, Sr., then minister of the First Church in Hingham, the famous "Old Ship,"—the oldest church in New England whose original Meeting House is still standing. His mother was Elizabeth Clark, daughter of the Rev. Jonas Clark of Lexington, the patriot preacher of the Revolution. In the austere and frugal atmosphere of this ministerial New England family, John Ware grew up with his brothers, William subsequently noted as a writer, the author of "Zenobia and Aurelian" and "The Last Days of Pompeii"; and Henry, Jr., who subsequently succeeded his father as minister of the Hingham Church. I wish that time permitted me to quote from an autographed narrative of my grandfather's describing the boyhood life and experiences of these three brothers.

In 1805 Henry Ware was appointed

Hollis Professor of Theology in the Harvard Theological School and removed to the house which he thereafter occupied for many years at the corner of Kirkland and Ware Streets in Cambridge,—continuing for some time, however, his ministry in Hingham. After their early schooling, the three Ware brothers were entered in Harvard College and John Ware graduated at the age of seventeen with the class of 1813 which numbered among its members the future Drs. Zabdiel Boylston Adams, Charles Augustus Cheever, James Freeman Dana, and Samuel Luther Dana. Passing at once to the Harvard Medical School, John Ware received the degree of M.D. in 1816 and almost immediately began the practice of General Medicine in Boston. He was early married to Helen Lincoln, a childhood acquaintance, daughter of Dr. Levi Lincoln, the old family practitioner of Hingham; and of this union were born in the ensuing twenty-five years, four sons and four daughters. The first home of young Dr. and Mrs. Ware in Boston was in the yellow brick building still standing on the corner of Allston Place and Bulfinch Street, on the back of Beacon Hill. Here Dr. Ware encountered his early professional struggles and adversities, recording in his diary that once when he had not sufficient money in his pocket to purchase dinner for his family an opportune patient walked in to have a tooth



John Ware

pulled and paid a fee of fifty cents, which provided the needful funds.

After a decade of arduous and often discouraging labor in the field of general practice, largely among the poor, professional recognition and success began to come to Dr. Ware. In 1828 he became one of the editors of the new *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* which was established by the union of the old *Medical Intelligencer* and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. In this capacity he became the colleague of the senior John Collins Warren and other leaders of medicine of the time. Contributions by Dr. Ware began early to appear in the pages of the new *Journal*. On May 20, 1828, he reported, with Dr. Adams, two cases of Empyema with autopsy. On April 13, 1830, he made his first contribution on the subject of Croup, reporting a case in which the anti-spasmodic treatment was adopted with success. Like others of his time, he failed to recognize the etiology of Diphtheria, but of his treatment says feelingly: "It has this claim to favorable attention,—that if it do no good, at least it does not annoy the patient and renders the last moments of this most horrible disease less painful to the living as well as to the dying."

Later he became noted for his success in the treatment of this disease and his contributions on the subject of croup and delirium tremens were regarded as classic in his generation. In the early summer of 1832 he made a special journey to New York to observe the phenomena of cholera, then epidemic in that city, and on July 23, read before the Boston Medical Society a lengthy communication on the symptoms and management of this disease. Speaking without expert knowledge, it would seem to me that this paper, which was published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* on August 8 of that year, is an extremely lucid and valuable exposition of the epidemiology, clinical manifestations and treatment of this disease from firsthand observation. Evidently Dr. Ware's ability was now fully recognized by his

colleagues; for in this same year, 1832, he was appointed adjunct Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic at the Harvard Medical School and in 1836 succeeded Dr. James Jackson in the Hersey Professorship, which he held until 1858. In 1837 he was appointed consulting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital and removed his home and office to the corner of Tremont Street and Temple Place, then a fine residential district.

During this active middle period of Dr. Ware's life, he was not only absorbed in the didactic duties of his professorship but built up in Boston an extensive general practice of medicine, which he pursued with unremitting fidelity and zeal. Indeed, it was rather as a family physician and practitioner among a large and widening circle than as a contributor to scientific medicine that Dr. Ware's reputation was established in his own generation. Grateful letters from patients high and low in the social scale were preserved among his papers; and gifts of small or greater intrinsic value, but large in their expression of gratitude to him, from patients whom he had helped, have been handed down among his descendants. I have in my possession a silver cream pitcher and sugar bowl, as well as two canes, which he received in this manner. One of these canes has an ivory handle, is dated 1860 and is inscribed to Dr. John Ware, but the gift is anonymous. The other is an elegant gold-headed cane presented to him by Nathan Rice who, with members of his family, had long had Dr. Ware as family physician. You will all recall, of course, the celebrated gold-headed cane now in the museum of the College of Physicians in London which was carried by five successive London practitioners of distinction,—Radcliffe, Mead, Askew, Pitcairn, and Baillie. We have long since ceased to regard the gold-headed cane as the peculiar symbol of the Physician. Probably Dr. Ware was one of the last in Boston who thus carried it in his professional and professorial peregrinations.

In 1858 failing health compelled Dr. Ware to resign his professorship and at this time he retired to a country estate which he had for some time maintained in Weston. His closing years were to some extent saddened by ill health and by the death in the Civil War of his favorite son Robert, for whom I have the honor to be named, and who like him was a physician and a young man of rare promise and sweetness of character. Nevertheless, the senior Dr. Ware maintained a measure of his professional activities to the last, continuing to inspire confidence and endear himself to all the patients with whom he came in contact. He occupied himself, too, to some extent, with writing. In August, 1860, he published the "Philosophy of Natural History" of which I have a copy bearing the autograph of his half-brother, Dr. Charles Ware.

Dr. John Ware for many years had enjoyed the esteem and friendship of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, who in 1847 became the first Parkman Professor of Anatomy in the Harvard Medical School. Early in 1864 Dr. John Ware died very suddenly and without acute distress, of cerebral hemorrhage; and at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society on May 25, of that year, Dr. Holmes read the following verses in memory of him and of his son. With the fragments of memory, which have otherwise survived of them both as beloved physicians, old and young, these verses form our best obituary of these two who, like Saul and Jonathan, were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in their deaths were not divided.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN AND ROBERT WARE.

No mystic charm, no mortal art,
 Can bid our loved companions stay;
 The bands that clasp them to our heart
 Snap in death's frost and fall apart;
 Like shadows fading with the day,
 They pass away.

The young are stricken in their pride,
 The old, long tottering, faint and fall;
 Master and scholar, side by side,
 Through the dark portals silent glide,
 That open in life's mouldering wall
 And close on all.

Our friend's, our Teacher's task was done,
 When Mercy called him from on high;
 A little cloud had dimmed the sun,
 The saddening hours had just begun,
 And darker days were drawing nigh;
 'Twas time to die.

A whiter soul, a fairer mind,
 A life with purer course and aim,
 A gentler eye, a voice more kind,
 We may not look on earth to find,
 The love that lingers o'er his name
 Is more than fame.

These blood-red summers ripen fast;
 The sons are older than the sires;
 Ere yet the tree to earth is cast,
 The sapling falls before the blast;
 Life's ashes keep their covered fires,—
 Its flame expires.

Struck by the noiseless, viewless foe,
 Whose deadlier breath than shot or shell
 Has laid the best and bravest low,
 His boy, all bright in morning's glow,
 That high-souled youth he loved so well,
 Untimely fell.

Yet still he wore his placid smile,
 And, trustful in the cheering creed
 That strives all sorrow to beguile,
 Walked calmly on his way awhile;
 Ah, breast that leans on breaking reed
 Must ever bleed!

So they both left us, sire and son,
 With opening leaf, with laden bough:
 The youth whose race was just begun,
 The wearied man whose course was run,
 Its record written on his brow,
 Are brothers now.

Brothers!—The music of that sound
 Breathes softly through my closing strain;
 The floor we tread is holy ground,
 Those gentle spirits hovering round,
 While our fair circle joins again
 Its broken chain.

George Cheyne Shattuck, 1859-1874

By George Cheever Shattuck, M.D.

DR. George Cheyne Shattuck the Younger* was the son of Dr. George Cheyne Shattuck the Elder and grandson of Benjamin Shattuck who had practised medicine in Templeton, Massachusetts, and who named his son George Cheyne in honor of a great physician of Bath in England whose writings he admired. Thus, the subject of this memoir was the third physician in direct line of descent and the son of a leading practitioner and medical teacher.

After graduating from Harvard College (1831) Dr. Shattuck spent a year at the Law School in accordance with the wish of his father who, perhaps, thought that the son was not sufficiently robust to undertake the practice of medicine. He soon followed, nevertheless, in his father's footsteps.

Dr. Shattuck's medical training is of special interest to us now because it differed so completely from that of today. The father wished the son to have the best possible preparation and, because the medical schools of those days provided little clinical instruction, it was customary for medical students to obtain private instruction by serving temporarily as assistants to successful practitioners.

In a manuscript dictated, probably, during his last illness, Dr. Shattuck tells something of his life. His medical studies were begun as the private pupil of Dr. Benjamin Lincoln, the Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at Burlington, Vermont (1832). The pupil and the instructor lived together in a third-rate tavern, and the combined office and library was their sitting-room. During the following winter, Dr. Shattuck attended lectures at the

Harvard Medical School and studied also with a number of other pupils in his father's office in Staniford Street where they had the use of an excellent medical library, two dissecting rooms, and a sufficient supply of anatomical material. It is said that the grapes and flowers in the garden adjoining the house flourished by reason of a liaison with anatomical study. In the spring of 1833, Dr. Shattuck became the special pupil of Dr. Mussey who was then Professor of Anatomy and Surgery at Bowdoin College (Brunswick, Maine).

By way of vacation during the summer, he took a most interesting trip with Audubon, the great naturalist, to Newfoundland and Labrador. Dr. Shattuck travelled by stagecoach to Cutler in Maine where he met the other members of the expedition and they embarked together upon a schooner.

The following winter was spent in attending lectures at the Harvard Medical School and at the Medical School of Dartmouth (Hanover, New Hampshire). In later years, Dr. Shattuck recalled with satisfaction a certain trip to Hanover. On that occasion he bore with him in the wagon a most welcome gift to the Professor of Anatomy, and the gift was concealed in a barrel. It was a corpse!

Dr. Shattuck later accepted invitations to visit two of his father's early friends who were successful country practitioners. With them he drove about seeing patients and acquiring valuable experience of a practical kind.

It was then decided that the young physician, before going to Europe for further study, should see something of his own country. Accordingly, he went to New Orleans, travelled up the Mississippi, visited the principal cities, and attended lectures

*Benjamin Shattuck: 1742 to 1794; George Cheyne Shattuck, the Elder: 1783 to 1854; George Cheyne Shattuck, the Younger: 1813 to 1893.

at the leading medical schools of the day. He took the medical degree at Harvard in 1835 and sailed for Europe in the following year (1836).

While in Paris, Dr. Shattuck boarded with a French physician in whose house no English was spoken. Much of his time was devoted to visiting the hospitals, and private courses were taken in auscultation, chemistry, and pathology. A vacation was spent in Italy with Drs. Alfred Stillé of Philadelphia and Alonzo Clark of Vermont both of whom became identified later with medical progress. Vienna and Munich were visited soon after (1837-38).

Later, Dr. Shattuck made the acquaintance of leading physicians in London, Edinburgh and Dublin, and he spent a winter (1838-39) in Paris where he learned much from Louis (P. Ch. A. Louis), who was already well known for his new method of studying cases of disease numerically and analytically and also for important advances in the pathology of tuberculosis. Louis, moreover, had associated lesions of the patches of Peyer, perforation of the intestine and splenic enlargement with the form of continued fever then prevalent in Paris, and had, thus, distinguished typhoid fever from other forms of enteritis; but he had not yet studied cases of typhus fever in the same way.

It was at the request of Louis that Dr. Shattuck undertook to investigate the continued fevers then common in England and he afterwards wrote a paper on the subject entitled "On the Continued Fevers of Great Britain" (1840). This was, probably, Dr. Shattuck's most valuable contribution to medical literature.

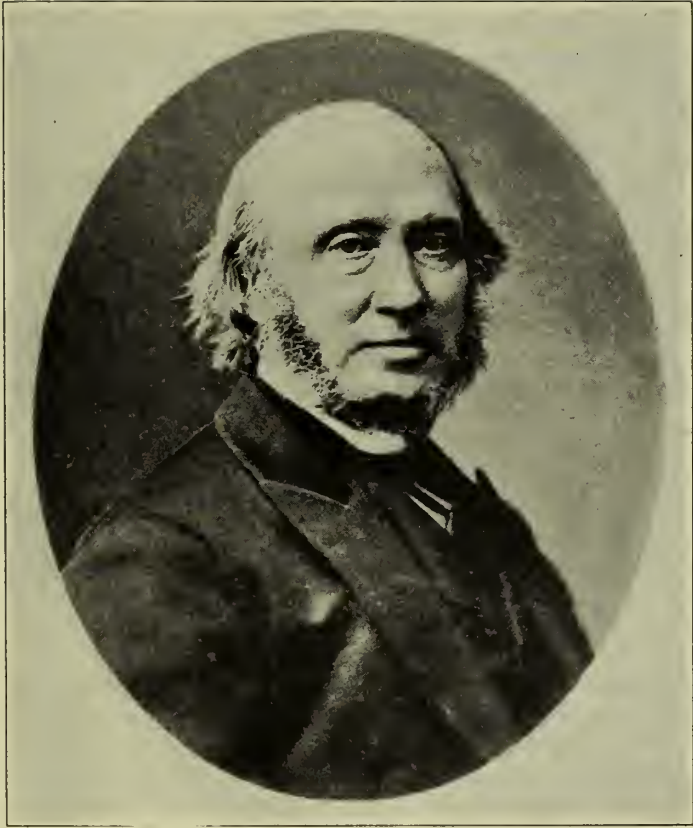
The immediate question was the identity or non-identity of typhoid fever, then prevalent in France, and of the kind of fever or fevers of Great Britain. Thirteen cases were studied during life and several autopsies were performed. Dr. Shattuck divided his cases into two groups and contrasted them by pointing out differences in the character of the eruption, the abdominal symptoms and the age-incidence, and

he also described in detail the lesions found at autopsy in two of the cases. One of these cases showed lesions of the Peyer's patches and would today have been recognized as typhoid fever. The other showed no such lesions and was, undoubtedly, a case of typhus fever. Although Dr. Shattuck knew of Gerhard's then recent differentiation of typhus fever from typhoid fever in Philadelphia, he regarded his own data as too scanty to furnish a basis for final conclusions, and he left the question open as to whether the two types of fever observed in England were to be regarded as different diseases or, merely, as varieties of the same disease.

Having spent nearly three years abroad, Dr. Shattuck returned home in 1839. He brought with him the manuscript of a new book on yellow fever by Louis which he translated and published, so that it appeared first of all in Boston.

In 1850, Dr. Shattuck was appointed a visiting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital where, as I have heard my father say, he introduced the use of the clinical thermometer which was then a large and crude U-shaped instrument so designed that, while the bulb was held in the axilla, the temperature could be read on the protruding arm of the tube.

Dr. Shattuck was informed by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes in 1855 of his appointment to the Professorship of Clinical Medicine at the Harvard Medical School and, subsequently, when Dr. Morrill Wyman resigned the post of Assistant Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, Dr. Shattuck assumed these duties also (1856). Dr. Ware, soon after, resigned the Hersey Professorship of the Theory and Practice of Physic and an unsuccessful effort was made to secure Dr. Austin Flint for the post. Dr. Shattuck then proposed to the Faculty that he resign the Chair of Clinical Medicine in favor of Dr. Henry I. Bowditch, and, that he himself should become Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic. The proposal was accepted and he held the posi-



Gen. G. Chittusk

tion for 15 years (1859-1874). Meanwhile, he served also as Dean of the Harvard Medical School for several years (1864 to 1869) and as President of the Massachusetts Medical Society for two years (1872-1874).

After resigning his professorship, Dr. Shattuck continued as visiting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital until 1886 when he completed a service there of 36 years. Thus, the period of his active medical life embraced the beginnings of modern pathology and bacteriology.

But Dr. Shattuck's activities were not limited to professional work. He was deeply interested also in the Episcopal Church, gave generously to it both in time and money, and entertained so many clergymen at his house that it was jokingly called the "Clerical Parker's," the Parker House then being the leading hotel in Boston.

Near Concord, New Hampshire, Dr. Shattuck had a farm which was used as his summer residence until 1855 when he founded St. Paul's School and gave the farm for its use. He did this because good boarding schools were few in those days and he could not find one that suited him for his sons. Probably the greatest achievement of Dr. Shattuck's life was the founding of this School but his work for the Church and his efforts to improve medical education will long be remembered.

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Francis Minot, 1874-1891

By Francis Minot Rackemann, M.D.

DR. Francis Minot was the son of William Minot, a distinguished jurist of Boston, and Louisa (Davis) Minot. He was born at 61 Beacon Street on April 12, 1821. He had two older brothers—George Richards and William. His early education was obtained in various private schools and he soon entered Harvard College, graduating as one of the 46 members of the class of 1841. In those days the rules for the government of students were rigorous, the students being regarded as boys, if not as culprits, whose spirits must be curbed. Morning and evening prayers were compulsory. A uniform style of black dress was imperative. At 9 P. M. all lights were out or the proctor was in. The chairman of the Parietal Committee is described as a man of untiring energy who pursued his victims with the cunning of a fox and the severity of a tiger.

But the class of 1841 had spirit and originality. They were the first to refuse to attend chapel or attend recitations until the injudicious rules could be modified. They had no desire to do violence but they sought justice in a quiet, dignified manner. The class also established the first college temperance society to which many of the members belonged, and of which a distinguished classmate was the first President. Dr. Minot was the permanent Class Secretary.

Concerning Dr. Minot, the class notes written by S. F. McCleary on the occasion of the 50th anniversary say this: "From his youth, Dr. Minot always exhibited a taste for medicine and surgery, and his room in college often presented the bloody spectacle of cats and other animals undergoing the process of dissection, much to the horror of tenderhearted students, and the mortal terror of the goodies'."

Upon leaving College, Dr. Minot entered at once on the study of medicine in

the Harvard Medical School where he took his degree of M.D. in 1844 at the age of 23. At that time the Medical School was on Mason Street. Josiah Quincy was President of the College and Walter Channing was Dean of the School. The discovery of ether was to come two years later. There were only four professors—John Collins Warren (Hersey Professor of Anatomy and Surgery), John Ware (Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic), John White Webster (Professor of Chemistry), and Walter Channing, the Dean (Professor of Obstetrics).

The Massachusetts General Hospital consisted then of only the centre section with one ward section on either side. The East and West wings which were to bring the bed capacity up to 141, were not completed until 1847. The familiar photograph shows the west wing almost touching the river.

After leaving the Medical School, Dr. Minot passed three years in Europe, chiefly in Paris, returning in 1847 to take up practice in Boston with an office at 144 Charles Street which he occupied for the next twenty years. The details concerning his first few years of practice are lacking, but the work which he did later, the host of friends which he made, the recognition which he received, and the respect which he commanded, justify the statement that these early years were devoted to hard and conscientious work in many lines.

In 1851, "The Club" was organized and after that a group of intimate friends dined together once a month. The list of names is impressive. It includes Alexander Agassiz, John Quincy Adams, Edward Bangs, Judge William C. Endicott, John Lowell, Charles Eliot Norton, Francis Parkman, and Henry Austin Whitney; men of diverse interests and each one eminent in his chosen field. Dr. Minot was



Francis Minot

the secretary and the only officer. The silver tray inscribed with all the names and given as a wedding present to his daughter is now her most treasured possession.

Dr. Minot's first and undoubtedly his best paper was read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement in 1852 at the age of 31. This paper was on "Hemorrhage from the Umbilicus in Newborn Infants with an Analysis of Forty-six Cases." The author's interest was excited by a case in his own practice. He writes: "The facts which I have collected lead me to think that idiopathic hemorrhage from the umbilicus in newborn infants is only one of the various manifestations of the hemorrhagic diathesis which in other cases is exhibited in bleeding from the gums, mouth, stomach, and intestines, and in the appearance of purpuric spots beneath the skin in various parts of the body." He found that 39 of the 46 cases ended fatally, that the hemorrhage occurred usually on the eighth day and continued on the average for six days before death. He knew of no treatment for the condition although his patients were given mercurials and cathartics. Locally he tried styptics, but he writes: "The best method is to transfix the umbilicus by two needles at right angles and then to wind a thread tightly underneath them." How delighted he would have been to know that the injection of 15 cc. of blood taken either from the father or mother and injected into the infant's vein would have acted as an immediate cure.

In 1859, at the age of 38, he was elected visiting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. D. Humphrey Storer. At that time, six physicians and six surgeons comprised the Staff. Two physicians were on duty at a time. The records are interesting. The histories were short and to the point. Physical examinations were recorded but only in regard to the positive findings and three or four lines sufficed. Laboratory examinations were few. The Anglo-Saxon names of most of

the patients indicate that the wholesale immigration of Slavs and Latins into the United States had not yet begun.

Dr. Minot had a thorough education in its broadest sense. He travelled. He read much but confined himself to the best works of the best authors. His mind was stored with much useful knowledge. He read French literature with great interest and was familiar with German and Italian. He was exceedingly fond of music and when, some time later, the Boston Symphony Orchestra was organized in 1881, he attended its concerts regularly. He had a very even temperament, a great capacity for work, and above all he had a lively sense of humor and unbounded cheerfulness. He was always resourceful.

Once he was called to a young girl who had taken poison. When she refused the emetic, Dr. Minot stepped outside and beckoned to two grimy coal heavers, asking them to help him for a moment. At the same time, he picked an umbrella from the stand and wrapped it tightly in brown paper. Back to the room, he said to the lady: "Will you drink this yourself or shall I ask these two gentlemen to hold you while I pump your stomach with this instrument?"

He was neat and methodical in all things. He dressed in excellent taste and carried himself with military bearing. The name "Dr. Minot" identified him everywhere.

From 1855-1860, he was Editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

In 1860, he was given the degree of A.M. by Trinity College. In those days it was customary to extend courtesies of this sort to friends of the College and this honor bestowed on Dr. Minot is good evidence of the respect in which he was held and of his influence in the community.

On January 16, 1861, at the age of 40, Dr. Minot married Sarah Parkman Blake.

On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon and the Civil War began. Dr. Minot did not enlist but he was made a

member of the Federal Sanitary Commission and throughout the war, he made frequent journeys to the battlefields to inspect the army hospitals.

Between 1862 and 1865, he was secretary and later treasurer of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

In 1863, in the new home at 7 Charles Street, his only child was born and in 1866, three years later, but still eleven years before the introduction of the carbolic spray, his wife died from sepsis following an operation. It is easy to assume that the horror of his wife's illness and the presence of the little girl had much to do with his great interest in the diseases of women and children which later developed in such fruitful directions.

The year of 1869 was a very important one. Dr. Minot and President Eliot joined the staff of the Medical School at the same time. The President's first report contains several illuminating paragraphs. "At large medical schools, the student attends five or six lectures a day, and of course, remembers little. The same lectures are repeated every year. The student who spends two winters in the same course pays twice for the same lectures but if he remains a third year, he can obtain them without further charge. He is required to produce a certificate that he has studied medicine for at least three years with some regular practitioner who is very often an entire stranger to the Faculty and may be living in some remote place. At the best schools, a formal examination has been held but it has been private, hasty, and lax. A majority vote of the examiners admits a candidate so that the new doctor may be and frequently is really ignorant of nearly half the subjects. The profession and the community have had no guarantee whatever of the quality of the examination." And President Eliot concludes: "It seems almost incredible that the grossly inadequate training above described should be the recognized preparation of aspirants to a profession which was once called learned."

Needless to say, a complete revolution in the system of medical education went into effect. Under the new plan, instruction was by lectures, recitations, and clinical teaching with exercises throughout the year. The course filled three years. Laboratory work was substituted for or added to the lectures, and finally, every candidate for the degree of doctor of medicine was obliged to pass a satisfactory examination in every subject. At this same time too, the management of the finances of the Medical School was taken from the Faculty and vested in the Treasurer of Harvard College. The budget for 1870-71 was about \$30,000, the income being derived mostly from students' fees. President Eliot began to beg for money.

In May, 1871, the Corporation created a professorship of Diseases of Women and elected Francis Minot to this chair. The Faculty, however, protested vigorously, stating that the diseases of women could best be taught by the departments of Obstetrics, Theory and Practice, and Surgery. As a result, the Overseers failed to confirm Dr. Minot's election. In October his title was changed from Instructor to Adjunct Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and at the same time he was made Clinical Lecturer on the Diseases of Women and Children. Two and a half years later on May 25, 1874, at the age of 53, he succeeded to the Hersey Professorship.

In 1878, he delivered the annual discourse before the Massachusetts Medical Society. Under "Hints on Ethics and Hygiene" he discussed the new education and dwelt upon such other topics as the importance of death certificates, the need of licenses for lying-in hospitals, the importance of light and ventilation, the evils of patent medicine, and the virtues of medical periodic literature. His appeal for support of the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society of which he was treasurer for many years is touching and it reveals the warmth of his kindly heart. Three years later, he delivered the annual

address before the Rhode Island Medical Society—this time on the "Health and Longevity of the Medical Man." He discussed the dangers of fatigue and the importance of long vacations, but he did not always practice what he preached.

Dr. Minot wrote much. Sixty-odd titles have been identified. The variety of his subjects is remarkable. About a third are on the diseases of women. Each of the contagious diseases of childhood is studied. Central nervous lesions interested him: bulbar palsy, apoplexy, and meningitis. Movable kidney, lead poisoning, cirrhosis, carbolic poisoning, diabetes, and pneumonia were all subjects for his pen. It is curious that the list includes only two papers on heart disease.

In 1889 as fourth president of the Association of American Physicians he spoke on "The Progress of Medicine During the Past Fifty Years" and was able to condense the subject into four pages.

A word about his lectures. Many of them were written out in full in his own small neat handwriting. Together they form a veritable textbook of medicine with each subject treated in a systematic logical manner. The introduction has two pertinent sentences. The first reads: "It is well to cultivate some acquaintance with other regions outside of the practical part of our profession to which we may return refreshed by the change" and the second: "A physician ought to be a public

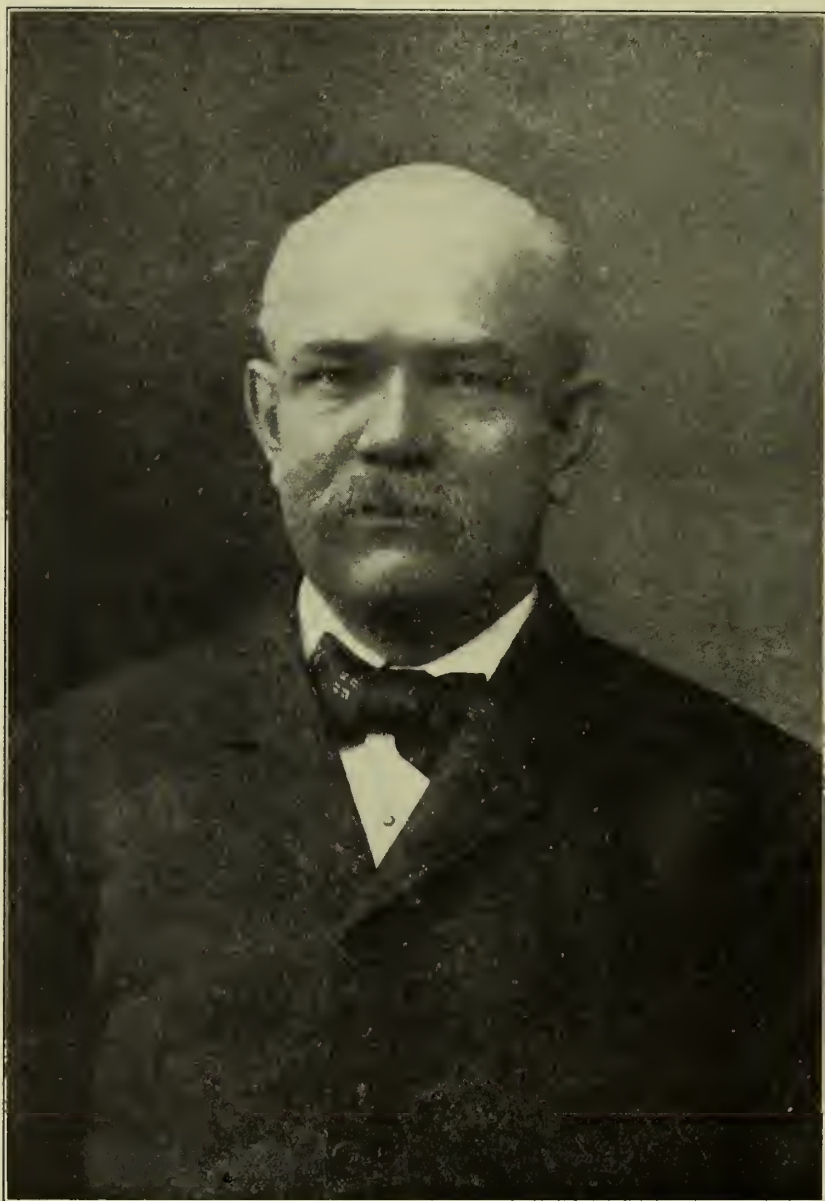
spirited man in everything related to the welfare of the community, but he should not allow these duties to engross him to such an extent as to interfere with those of his calling."

Dr. Minot resigned in 1891 at the age of 70. Many changes had taken place. The first electric car had been run to Brookline and Harvard Bridge was almost ready for travel. The Faculty had increased to 27 members and other instructors to 47. The School had moved to its new building on Boylston Street and the list of Departments was greatly extended. The budget of the School had risen from \$30,000 to \$100,000. Today, it is well over \$1,000,000.

For 14 years, Dr. Minot had been living in a house of his own design at 65 Marlboro Street with his daughter as a constant source of pleasure and companionship. He resigned in the full vigor of his health and in complete control of all his faculties, at a time when he was still going out at night to attend patients in childbirth. He wanted to leave before the onset of infirmities and restrictions which he knew were inevitable.

He died on May 11, 1899, at the age of 78. On the next day, the *Daily Advertiser* said: "The death of Francis Minot removes one of Boston's most venerable, eminent, and beloved physicians and he was as good a citizen as he was a physician."





Reynold H. Fry

Reginald Heber Fitz, 1892-1908

By Reginald Fitz, M.D.

FOR a great many years, all medical students have been urged at some time in their careers to read a book called "The Gold-Headed Cane." This book describes, most charmingly, the adventures and experiences of a certain cane which was carried successively by five distinguished members of the College of Physicians in England during the years 1689 to 1825. Each of the physicians who had the honor of carrying this cane was chosen carefully for his ability as a doctor, and each during his lifetime caused to be engraved on the cane's head his own coat of arms. At death, the cane passed from one owner to the next as a symbol of the new owner's medical eminence and trustworthiness.

This evening we have listened to a similar narrative, and one that pertains peculiarly to Harvard. We have heard that in 1782 a chair known as the Herseian Chair of the Theory and Practice of Physic, was established in our School, that each occupant has always been chosen carefully by the Harvard Corporation for his ability to fill this Chair in an adequate fashion, and that each of our Herseian professors has carved his initials on the arms of this Chair by some sterling medical achievement ever afterwards to be associated with his name. We can but feel that the tradition of this Chair as a symbol of medical eminence and trustworthiness has been treasured and has been passed carefully from one occupant to the next.

My father was the sixth Herseian professor. He followed Professor Minot and served from 1892-1908. As my part in this exercise, I propose to tell something of my father and his background; how he came almost by accident to occupy the Chair and in what way he carved his initials upon its arms.

I think my story had best begin with one

day in 1811, during the school term when Professor Waterhouse was lecturing to his pupils. For on this day my great-grandfather advertised in the Boston *Patriot* that he had gone into the shipping business and that he was now bringing rum, molasses and tobacco, from New Orleans in a first-class sailing vessel, and on the return voyage would be glad to take aboard passengers. This episode, to me, is very significant. Heretofore the Fitz family had been a conservative one, farming for many generations in the neighborhood of Ipswich and Newburyport, leading commonplace, unadventurous lives, and not getting ahead very far. But now apparently some new impulse had entered the blood, a desire to do something a little out of the ordinary, and I think this spark may have had a good deal to do with kindling the flame that eventually made my father Herseian professor.

When Professor Jackson held the Chair my grandfather was a young man. In his blood, too, was the desire to do something a little out of the ordinary for he followed a career that was by no means commonplace. He was born in Boston and at the time of his marriage in 1833, was discount clerk in the Commonwealth Bank on State Street. The bank suddenly failed leaving him with small resources and a wife and family to support. After this we hear of him as confidential secretary to Daniel Webster in Washington, and later in the employ of the United States Government as consular agent to various ports in the West Indies. He went to Peru to help in the negotiation of a treaty and to Bermuda where he drew a plan of the British fortifications. He finally died of yellow fever at Aux Cayes on the Island of Haiti in his forty-fourth year.

Thus when Professor Ware held the Chair my grandmother was a widow with

no money and with six children to support. But she was the descendant of a long line of sea captains. She inherited from her forbears a keen sense of humor, great force of character, courage, ability to lead, and that superlatively useful attribute which President Lowell has termed "habit of victory." Some of these qualities were given to her son who held the Herseian Chair, and they combined well to inflame the spark of originality which he may have inherited from his father and grandfather.

With a temperament like hers, adversity to my grandmother, of course, was merely a stimulant. She proceeded to bring up and educate her children by establishing and directing the Brookline Seminary,—a school in Brookline for young ladies of fashion which ran a successful course for many years. In this way she sent my father through the Chauncey Hall School and prepared him for college.

When Professor Shattuck held the Chair he had sitting under him and taking notes from him the youth who was eventually to follow in his footsteps. It is interesting to realize how my father happened to enter the Medical School, and with how little enthusiasm he did so. There is a manuscript in the Medical School Library, pencilled in my father's hand, which is a short autobiography evidently composed at about the time that he became a medical student. It appears that as a boy, he was by no means studious, and that he was more or less driven into Harvard. He says, "I was never extremely desirous to enter College but as I knew it to be an urgent wish of my mother that I should graduate at Cambridge I became a student on probation with one condition in Greek Syntax." The academic atmosphere of college life seemed to him stifling and dull and he nearly left college without his degree. "During the second term of Junior Year," he writes, "I was seized with the prevalent desire of the young for a change. Having received an offer to go to Michigan as clerk for a Copper Mine on Lake Superior I accepted.

I always was desirous of becoming a rich man and considered a business life best adapted to bring about this happy condition."

He went to the Medical School almost by chance for he tells us, "In the early part of September I received a letter from a brother in China making me a very liberal offer on the condition that I should study a profession." Because of the tempting opportunities suggested in this letter, apparently, he returned to college and graduated. His reason for choosing medicine as a profession is not at all clear. It may have been from some native interest in biology that had been latent until now, or perhaps because he imagined that the chances for success in this field were greater for him than those offered by our sister professions of the Law or Church.

When Professor Minot held the Chair, my father had returned to Boston having had an internship at the Boston City Hospital and two years abroad in post-graduate work. It was now apparent that he had chosen a profession well fitted to his abilities.

When he went to Europe in 1868, he was equipped with but a scant stock of medical knowledge. In Germany, however, he came under the influence of Rudolph Virchow and returned to this country with a good clinical training and with a great interest in cellular pathology. By virtue of the knowledge acquired from Virchow he obtained at once a foothold in the School and began teaching microscopic pathology. He made a success of teaching as he became instructor in 1870, assistant professor in 1873, and Professor of Pathology in 1878. He also was given charge of the pathological laboratory at the Massachusetts General Hospital, finally becoming a visiting physician there in 1887. It was in the Massachusetts General Hospital that he gathered the material for his paper on "Perforating Inflammation of the Vermiform Appendix", which was presented before the Association of American Physicians in 1886, and considered his

most important contribution to medicine.

If my father could be here tonight at this meeting, I think that he would say three things. He would say, in the first place, that he had enjoyed to full capacity the profession of medicine. He might be a little skeptical about the value of our modern medical aptitude tests and of the present-day elaborate premedical requirements for entrance to our schools. Judging from his own experience, he might conclude that there are no yardsticks with which to take the preliminary measurements for a good doctor. Industry, intelligence, originality and enthusiasm all count. Given a boy, well brought up and college-trained, who thinks he wants to be a doctor, take him into school, and give him a chance. If he likes his work and sticks to it, he is likely to do well.

In the second place, he would say how much he had appreciated his occupancy of the Herseian Chair. He would tell us how proudly he had watched the development of his students, how interesting had been the growth of the School under President Eliot's administration, how stimulating had been the task of keeping up lectures and clinics, how delightful was his association with the Massachusetts General Hospital and the friendly, almost brotherly devotion that existed among the members of its staff.

And finally, he would speak of the future. He would say with what equanimity he looked ahead when his time for retiring from the Herseian Chair came due, confident that the ideals and the best traditions of the Chair would continue in safe keeping in the hands of his successor.

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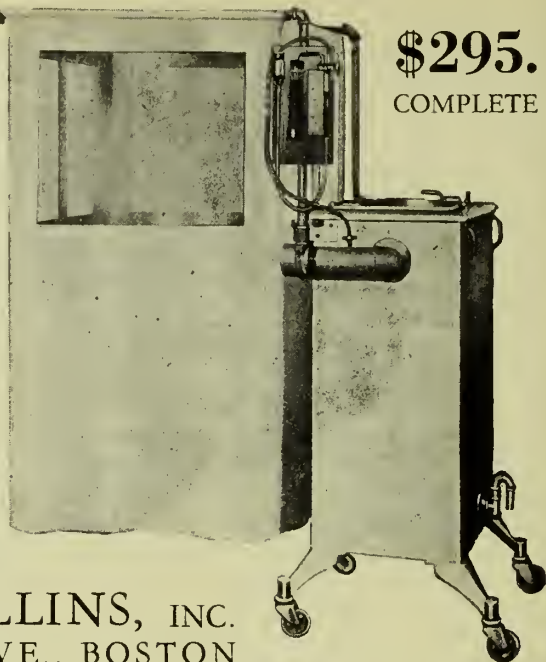
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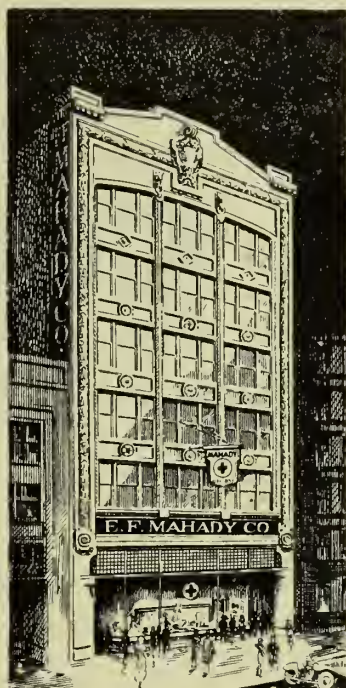
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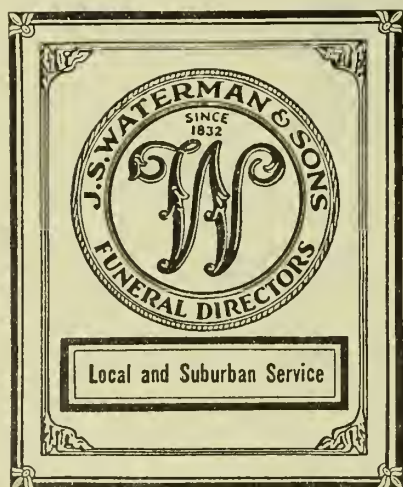
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